

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09667 150141Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (FREY, LOUIS), SNAR, MX

SUBJ: CODEL FREY: MEETING WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

REF: MEXICO 9335; STATE 238351; MEXICO 9612

1. IN VERY SATISFACTORY VISIT, CONGRESSMAN FREY ADHERED CLOSELY TO SCHEDULE TRANSMITTED IN MEXICO 9335.

2. IN NARCOTICS CONTEXT, MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF MR. FREY'S TRIP WAS CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA, HELD NOVEMBER 11. MR. FREY POSED SEVERAL QUESTIONS AND RECEIVED FOLLOWING COMMENT:

Q. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYING HERBICIDE AGAINST OPIUM POPPY PLANTATIONS?

A. WHILE GOM REMAINS OPENMINDED ON THIS SUBJECT, THERE ARE SERIOUS ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH PREVENT OUR BEING VERY OPTIMISTIC.

Q. DOES THE GOM FACE A PROBLEM WITH COMPETITION FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY FOR TRAINED HELICOPTER PILOTS?

A. THERE IS SOME COMPETITION FOR PILOTS OF THE SMALL HELICOPTERS (BELL 206); BUT MEXICO HAS FEW OF THE LARGER MODELS (BELL 212), SO WE ARE NOT TROUBLED BY THOSE PILOTS BEING HIRED AWAY FROM US. IN ANY CASE, WE ARE MAKING CAREERS IN OUR SERVICE MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR HELICOPTER PILOTS, SO WE EXPECT TO OVERCOME WHAT SMALL PROBLEM EXISTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 09667 150141Z

Q. WHAT MORE CAN THE USG DO BY WAY OF EQUIPMENT, TRAINING OR ANYTHING ELSE?

A. OF COURSE WE CAN ALWAYS ASK FOR MORE HELICOPTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, BUT THAT IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL BE USED EFFECTIVELY. I PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL ABOUT MARCH 1975 AND THEN ASSESS THE SITUATION. BY THEN THE SPRING CAMPAIGN WILL BE MORE THAN HALF FINISHED, AND WE WILL HAVE A MUCH BETTER IDEA OF WHAT WE NEED. AS FOR PERSONNEL, WE DO NOT WANT TO EXPAND TOO FAR OR TOO QUICKLY OR WE WILL RISK DILUTING THE QUALITY OF OUR TRAINED PEOPLE. WE PREFER TO BE LIKE THE FBI, TO EMPHASIZE QUALITY OVER QUANTITY.

Q. WE HAVE HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH CORRUPTION ON OUR SIDE OF THE BORDER; IS THIS ALSO A SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IN MEXICO?

A. SPEAKING IN GENERAL TERMS, THERE IS NOT MUCH CORRUPTION IN THE MEXICAN FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE. THERE IS MORE CORRUPTION IN THE LOCAL POLICE FORCES BUT WE ARE WORKING TO ELIMINATE OR NEUTRALIZE THIS.

Q. WHAT IS THE DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE SITUATION IN MEXICO?

A. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE MEXICAN CENTER FOR DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH (CEMEF) UNDER THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, TO STUDY THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM. CEMEF IS ALSO OPENING DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT CENTERS THROUGHOUT MEXICO. IN GENERAL, THE HEROIN ADDICTS ARE LIMITED MOSTLY TO THE BORDER AREAS AND THE LARGEST CITIES OF THE INTERIOR. THERE MAY BE SOME 5,000 HEROIN ADDICTS THROUGHOUT MEXICO, PERHAPS 1,500 IN TIJUANA ALONE. OF COURSE THE MOST SERIOUS DRUG ABUSE IN MEXICO CONCERNS MARIJUANA AND INHALANTS.

Q. HOW DOES MEXICAN CUSTOMS WORK WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE?

A. THE NEWLY-APPOINTED UNDERSECRETARY OF THE TREASURY IN CHARGE OF CUSTOMS (ING. RUIZ ALMADA) IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. IN CONSIDER THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE VERY COOPERATIVE, AND THEY ARE BECOMING MORE EFFECTIVE ALL THE TIME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 09667 150141Z

3. ALMOST AS PROOF OF THIS LAST REMARK, THE AG RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM RUIZ ALMADA IN OUR PRESENCE. THE CALL WAS TO ALERT THE AG TO A JUST-PUBLISHED AP PRESS STORY CONCERNING GOM PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS INTO MEXICO FROM THE US. FOR DETAILS, SEE MEXICO 9612.

4. MR FREY ALSO HAD INTERESTING, USEFUL VISIT WITH SUBSECRETARY TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, ING. JAVIER BARRIENTOS.

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